Number of beedi workers in the country

1750. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA:Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beedi workers in the country State-wise and

(b) the details of steps being taken for the welfare of beedi workers in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTERS IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINSITER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) The estimated number of beedi workers in the country is 32.75 lakhs. The Siate-wise distribution of beedi workers is given in the enclosed statement *{See* below).

(b) The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 has been enacted to provide for the welfare of the workers in beedi and cigar establisments and to regulate the conditions of their employment and for matters connected therewith. This Act is implemented by the respective State Governments. The Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976 and the Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976 have been enacted to provide for the financing of measures to promote the welfare of persons engaged in beedi establishments. Several schemes to provide medical, housing, educational, recreational and family welfare facilities to beedi workers and their families are being implemented under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund. These Acts are implemented by the Central Government.

Statement

State-wise distribution of Beedi Workers in the Country

S). No.	Name of State	Estimate No. of Beedi Workers (in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.00
2.	Bihar	3.50
3.	Gujarat	0.75
4.	Kernataka	3.55
5.	Kerala	1.11
6.	Madhya Pradesh	5.78
7.	Maharashtra	2.05
8.	Orissa	1.60
9.	Rajasthan	1.16
10.	Tamil Nadu	2.25
11.	Uttar Pradesh	4.50
12.	West Bengal, Assam, Tripura & Meghalaya	4.50
	TOTAL	32.75

Rice quota for tribals

1751. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the rice quota for tribals, and that also at subsidised rates; and

(b) if so, the action taken in that regard? ,

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) Issues of foodgrains under the scheme for distribution of rice and the wheat at specially subsidised prices in the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas and the tribal majority States are made by the State Governments out of the allocations for the Public Distribution System to the State/Union Territories. No separate allocations are made by the Central Government for the purpose.